

## Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 EB-07 OMB-01 OES-03 TRSE-00

FEA-01 /068 W

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R 190855Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2467

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, TC

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S BUSINESSWEEK INTERVIEW

1. DURING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AHMAD AL-SUWAIDI JAN 16, I TOLD HIM I HAD NOT RAISED SUBJECT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S BUSINESSWEEK COMMENTS WITH ANYONE IN UAEG, FIRST, BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL UAEG STATEMENT ON SUBJECT OR REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION FROM ME, AND SECOND, BECAUSE I ASCRIBED ENOUGH INTELLIGENCE TO UAEG'S POLICY-MAKERS TO THINK THAT THEY KNEW WHAT THE SECRETARY WAS SAYING, AND WHAT HE WAS NOT SAYING. I WAS, HOWEVER, NOW MENTIONING SUBJECT TO HIM SINCE I HAD SEEN INTERVIEW WITH HIM PUBLISHED IN KUWAIT NEWSPAPER, REPRINTED IN PRESS HERE, IN WHICH HE WAS QUOTED AS MAKING CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT SECRETARY'S COMMENT. I THEREFORE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER KNEW PRECISELY CONTEXT IN WHICH SECRETARY HAD MADE HIS REMARK. I THEN READ HIM VERBATIM BUSINESSWEEKEXCHANGE AND OFFERED TO LEAVE HIM TEXT IF HE SO DESIRED.

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2. SUWAIDI SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY MISQUOTED BY KUWAITI

JOURNALIST. HE HAD NOT RAISED SUBJECT HIMSELF IN INTERVIEW, AND WHEN JOURNALIST BROUGHT UP SUBJECT, HE HAD SAID MERELY THAT HE DID NOT THINK CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD ARISE WHICH WOULD LEAD TO US APPLICATION OF FORCE. WHEN JOURNALIST HAD PRESSED, "BUT SUPPOSE IT HAPPENS ANYWAY?", FOREIGN MINISTER HAD REPLIED THAT UAE POSITION IN SUCH EVENTUALITY WOULD BE ONE OF SOLIDARITY WITH ITS ARAB BRETHREN. WHAT FINALLY APPEARED IN PRINT, SAID SUWAIDI, WAS SO DISTORTED THAT HE HAD SENT WORD TO KUWAITI PUBLISHER THAT THEIR MAN WAS NON-GRATA IN UAE FOR PERIOD OF ONE YEAR, AND MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WAS THAT VERY DAY ISSUING INSTRUCTIONS TO BAN THE OFFENDING PUBLICATION FROM DISTRIBUTION IN UAE. I SAID I WAS SURE SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD ENVY HIS METHODS. SUWAIDI LAUGHED AND SAID THERE WERE STILL SOME METHODS ONE COULD USE OUT HERE THAT WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN US.

3. TURNING MORE SERIOUS, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT IN SPITE OF ALL THE FUSS THAT WAS BEING MADE ABOUT BUSINESSWEEK STATEMENT IN OTHER ARAB CAPITALS HE HAD NOT FELT IT NECESSARY TO PROTEST OR SEEK EXPLANA-

TION FROM USG BECAUSE UAEG HAD BASIC CONFIDENCE IN US INTENTIONS. HE DID NOT MEAN TO IMPLY BY THIS THAT OUR INTERESTS ALWAYS COINCIDED, BUT RATHER THAT WHATEVER DIFFERENCES WE MIGHT HAVE, WHETHER ON THE SUBJECT OF OIL PRICES OR OTHERS, COULD BE RESOLVED BY DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION. I SAID MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THE SAME, AND THAT I WAS SURE WASHINGTON WOULD WELCOME THE TENOR OF HIS REMARKS. STERNER

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